

Arts Education

Developing a Creative and Innovative Workforce

Engaging the whole brain, educating the whole child; Arts Education is the spark which ignites a student's curiosity and imagination, fostering meaningful connections to other subjects. By studying the Arts, students discover purpose, ownership and joy in learning. When you create it, you own it!



Student painting based on a study of life in the 1940's

The Importance of Arts Education

Arts Education includes the study of Musical Arts, Theatre Arts, Dance Arts and Visual Arts. Why are the Arts so important? In a global economy which is driven by ideas and innovation, Arts Education is essential for practicing and acquiring creative and innovative thinking. The highly sought skills needed in the 21st century labor force require workers who can think independently and work in teams. Regardless of what career path a student will follow, those who can imagine, innovate, understand the 'Big Ideas' and the interconnectedness of concepts and cultures, will have the competitive edge in the workforce. Along with healthy competition, the Arts also build a strong work ethic, self-confidence and help students develop interpersonal and cooperative skills. Also, through the creative process of individual and ensemble work, students develop personal ownership for their learning and personal responsibility to the group. Arts Education Curriculums provide students the creative environment and practice time to develop non-routine, adaptive, and new ways of thinking. Arts Education classes challenge students to identify problems and find solutions to problems through careful observation, active listening, learning through practice, accepting mistakes and learning how to critique. Through critique, students gain insights and new ideas are incubated. In order to remain flexible and competitive in our fast paced, global economy, the Arts Education Programs engage, challenge, and teach students HOW to think, not WHAT to think.



Student self-portrait based on a study of artist Amedeo Modigliani (1884-1920)

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Elementary School Musical Theatre Production

Providing Local and Global Awareness

Arts Education Programs provide opportunities to broaden student's life experiences through:

Master Classes & Artist Residencies: Through collaborations with the ECU Performing Arts Series, select students from Performing Arts classes have had the unique opportunity to attend Master Classes taught by National and Internationally known Professional Companies such as Doug Varone Dance Co (NYC), Dallas Brass (TX), Aquila Theatre Co (NYC), Philadelphia Dance Co (PA), Dayton Contemporary Dance Co (OH), Meridian Brass Ensemble (MA), Jose Limon Dance Co (NYC) and Koresch Dance Co (NYC). Ballet Memphis (TN) New York Voices (NYC) Dorfman Dance Co (NYC)

Touring Companies: Through collaborations with ECU Performing Arts Series and generous grant funding, several professional performing Arts Education Series have been made available at no charge to all Pitt County students in a designated grade level. Some productions include the Kennedy Center Youth Theatre Productions, Dance Theatre of Charlotte, Trombones De Costa Rica, Cincinnati Percussion and NC Symphony.

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Creative Opportunities for Students

Students engaged in the Visual Arts, Musical Arts, Dance Arts and Theatre Arts can audition, perform, design and experience the production of Mainstage and Studio Productions, Musicals, Dinner Theatre, Dance Productions and Talent Shows. They have opportunities to create original music compositions, original choreography, original plays and original 2D and 3D art work. Additionally, students engaged in Arts Education can develop and direct Public Service Announcements for viewing on local TV access channels and for in-school broadcasts.

Art competitions are available to Visual Art students such as the annual U.S. Congressional 9-12 Art Competition, the 7-12 Scholastic Art Competition, the M.L. Blount Memorial 9-12 Art Competition, Unnatural Resources Fair, Pitt County Fair, Superintendent Holiday Card Competition, City of Greenville Inclusive Community Design Competition and Fair Housing Poster Competition, ECU Youth Arts Festival Poster Design Contest and PTA Reflections.

Exhibit opportunities include the Annual Greenville Museum of Art K-12 Exhibit, K-12 Youth Expressions Art Project at the Greenville Mall, Ayden Collard Festival, Shad Festival, and ECU Youth Arts Festival. Business venues throughout the county often request to exhibit student artwork as well.

Band, Orchestra and Chorus students can audition and perform in All-County Honors Performances and the All-District and All-State Honors Music events. The *Greenville Rose Band Classic*, an annual Marching Band Competition, brings over 18 Marching Band Units from around the state.

Select Pitt County schools have been enriched through grant funding from the Pitt County Arts Council at Emerge, the Greenville Museum of Art and the ECU Schools of Music, Art & Design, Theatre and Dance. Some outreach initiatives include the Four Season's Chamber Music Festival, ECU Storybook Theatre and the African American Dance Ensemble.